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Navy Ships Surge to Deny Terrorists Use of Maritime Environment

NORFOLK, Va. - The Navy is surging three ships, Tuesday, January 24 and Wednesday, January 25, to conduct maritime security operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism. These ships will work with allies to detect, disrupt, and deny international terrorist organizations the use of the maritime environment. They will also work closely with allies to build regional security and long-term stability.

“This surge reinforces our commitment to providing security and stability on the high seas,” said Vice Adm. Mark Fitzgerald, commander of the U.S. Second Fleet. “It is a testament to the flexibility and capability of the Navy to conduct maritime security operations under the Fleet Response Plan, and is a key to winning the war on terrorism.”

More than 1,100 Sailors from three ships will deploy for approximately three months. The deploying ships are the amphibious dock landing ship, USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), homeported at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.; the Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Roosevelt (DDG 80), and the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69), both homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

The United States Navy continually positions its forces when and where required and routinely operates and plans exercises that support security and stability. This surge will demonstrate how scaleable, responsive, and uniquely capable naval power can strengthen our effectiveness in key maritime areas of interest. A simple realignment of schedules, made possible by ships maintaining their readiness under the Fleet Response Plan (FRP), enables the Navy to surge these ships.

This deployment mirrors last year's surge of USS Saipan (LHA 2), USS Nashville (LPD 13), USS Nicholas (FFG 47), USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), and USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44). It

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provides the Navy and the regional combatant commanders an opportunity to exercise the FRP while maintaining the ability to respond to crises around the globe, enhances regional security and relationships, meets combatant commander requirements including forward presence, and demonstrates a commitment to allies and coalition partners in maritime security.

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NOTE: Media partners wishing to cover the departure of USS Oak Hill should contact COMPHIBGRU 2 Public Affairs at (757) 462-7403, x153.

Media partners wishing to cover the departure of USS Roosevelt and USS Vicksburg should contact Naval Station Mayport Public Affairs at (904) 270-5226.

Information on the above ships and all other U.S. Navy ships is available by visiting http://www.navy.mil/navydata/our_ships.asp.